

DECEMBER 2021



# WHAT'S *growing on* IN FOREST GROVE

## UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

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| <b>DECEMBER 24</b> | City Offices Closed<br>Christmas                     |
| <b>DECEMBER 27</b> | S.T.E.A.M.ing Ahead<br>Recipe for a Comet<br>Library |
| <b>DECEMBER 31</b> | City Offices Closed<br>New Year's                    |
| <b>MARCH 14-16</b> | Congressional City Conference<br>Washington, DC      |

WE'RE THE CITY OF FOREST GROVE  
*Where families and businesses thrive*



## CITY HALL / ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) SPENDING

Staff will present the ARPA Subcommittee's funding recommendations on December 13, 2022. Staff is currently working on what portion of the 80% of the ARPA funds retained for City projects or programs can be placed into the Lost Revenue category. Staff will provide an overall ARPA status report at an upcoming Council meeting.

### LEVY PLANNING

DHM Research will be scheduling two focus groups in January. The first focus group will be composed of twelve likely voters and is scheduled for January 4, 2022. The second group will be composed of a representative from each Board and Commission and is scheduled for January 5, 2022. Staff will be reaching out to each B/C Chair to appoint a representative for each B/C. The results will be presented to the Council at the January 24, 2022, Council meeting.

### DEI PLAN

Training for Council, the management team, and the City's internal DEI team, is planned for February-March 2022. The training will complete Phase 1 of the engagement. MIG will then prepare a summary of Phase 1 and begin drafting a proposed DEI Plan for the City. Jamillah Jordan, MIG's project manager, has accepted a position with another organization so MIG will assign a new project manager who is familiar with this project.

### FEDERAL GRANT ASSISTANCE

Staff met with CFM Advocates to prepare a list of potential Federal funding requests which will be discussed at the December 13, 2021, Council meeting. After the project list is developed, CFM and City staff will finalize the specifics of each funding request for the federal appropriations cycle.

### PERS EQUAL-TO-OR-BETTER-THAN STUDY

At least every 12 years, the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) is required to perform an Equal-to-or-Better-Than (ETOB) study of the retirement benefits of public safety employees who are not part of PERS to ensure that the employer-paid retirement benefits of the non-PERS plans are equal-to-or-better than the PERS employer-paid retirement benefits. The last ETOB Study was done in 2010 so PERS is required to do a study in 2022. The City passed the last ETOB study in 2010.

### PARTICIPATION IN HOMELESSNESS LEGISLATION

The City sent a letter to the County encouraging participation and support for proposed legislation that would authorize 5 cities and county sponsors for 5 innovate pilot projects supporting homelessness services. Cities and Counties from across the state expressed interest and the League of Oregon Cities will be preparing legislation for the upcoming legislative session.

### DEVELOPMENT SERVICES ANNEX AND CITY HALL REMODEL

Construction documents are being finalized and the architect expects to submit plans to the City for review and permitting. The Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) is finalizing the construction cost estimate. Demolition of the Engineering Office is expected to start in March or early April 2022. Staff will present a project update to the Council in January 2022. See below.





## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND URA

### DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATES

The subcommittee of the Planning Commission responsible for reviewing draft Development Code in support of the State's middle housing bill (HB2001) held its final meeting on December 7. Draft code amendments are now finalized and will be made available to the public, with a virtual open house for community members who are interested, as well as a Council/Planning Commission joint work session to be held in January or early February.

### PROJECTS AND LAND USE

Follow the link for up to date information on current projects.

<https://www.forestgrove-or.gov/projects>

## ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS

### THATCHER RD & GALES CREEK RD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Washington County is proceeding with right-of-way acquisition in anticipation of a spring 2022 build.

### HIGHWAY 47 AT MAPLE/FERN HILL RD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

The improvement alternatives analysis for this project has been completed. Washington County will be giving an update to City Council at the January 10, 2022 meeting.

### COUNCIL CREEK REGIONAL TRAIL

The County was awarded the USDOT RAISE grant of \$12.2 million. A project kickoff meeting with design consultant, Alta Planning + Design, will be held after the contract is finalized. The State is experiencing delays but is working on the process of the abandonment of the rail corridor. Washington County is working on an application for the next cycle of RFFA grants.

### PUBLIC WORKS STORAGE FACILITY

This project will remove and replace the equipment storage structure that partially collapsed last winter with a slightly larger, pre-engineered steel building. The City received two bids and both were above estimate, which indicates high pricing is being experienced in the construction industry. Staff will proceed with an award to the lowest bidder.

## FIRE

### HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE & TOY DRIVE

Fire and Rescue coordinated efforts for a successful Holiday Light Parade. Thanks to Chief Nemeyer and the many volunteers for their efforts. The toy drive is underway with donations taking place daily throughout the city.

### DIGITAL RADIO CONVERSION

The 800 megahertz conversion to digital radio is complete. The upgrade is a \$77 million voter approved project for Washington County and Clackamas County.

## LIBRARY

### HOLIDAY IN THE GROVE

Despite the bad weather, the Library celebrated Holiday in the Grove, in partnership with the Police Department and Parks & Recreation. Over 158 people visited for children's crafts and cookies, and the library hosted the Allegretto Woodwind Quintet, who played holiday music pieces. Thanks to the Friends of the Forest Grove Library for their financial support of this program.

### DEATH CAFÉ

Beginning in January, the library will again offer a Death Café. This is a five-month series on Zoom for conversations about any and all things related to death, dying, end of life, and more. This program is free but registration is required and attendance will be limited to 20 participants.

## LIGHT AND POWER

### CURRENT PROJECTS

Crews are focused on system maintenance projects. A failing high voltage underground cable in the 3300 block of 22nd Place has been replaced. Crews have now begun replacing the high voltage underground cable in the 3300 block of Hillcrest Way. Three separate studies are underway including electric system master plan, wildfire mitigation plan, and SCADA system review.



## POLICE

### DETECTIVES

Detectives currently have 28 open cases. 10 cases were closed during this update period while 8 others were received for intake.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

COS Quinsland attended the Westside Crime Prevention Coalition's Landlord Forum regarding pandemic debt and gave a Community Crime Prevention and Holiday Safety presentation to the Homestead Senior Community. The department participated in the Holiday Light Parade and



held a special Cocoa With a Cop event.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

### STITES PARK

The Stites Park project is going out for bid this coming January. Construction is scheduled to begin Spring 2022.

### GRANT AWARDED

National Fitness Campaign has awarded the City a grant to assist in the purchase and installation of a Fitness Court at Bard Park. Below is an example.



### NO SCHOOL, NO WORRIES

Aquatic Center hosting no school days activities!

Check online, see facebook or visit the facility for more information.



### SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Hillsboro athletic fields maintenance team is training the Forest Grove parks maintenance team in developing a system of care for the city-owned athletic fields.





## PERSONNEL UPDATES

### WELCOME TO NEW EMPLOYEES



**Amy Kreimeier, Sr. Planner** – started 11/8/2021

Amy comes to Forest Grove from Fairfield, CA, has a master's degree in urban and regional planning, and is certified with the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).



**Rebeka Andrade, Program Coordinator** – started 12/6/2021

Rebeka comes to us from Pacific University where she worked as the Administrative Assistant to the School of Social Sciences.



**Spencer Palmer, Utility Worker I, PW** – started 11/8/2021

Spencer came to us from Locating, Inc. where for 5 years he was responsible for all damage investigations in the Portland metropolitan area and along the Oregon coast.



**Brenna Fulks, Economic Development Coordinator** – started 12/13/2021

Brenna O'Sullivan-Fulks came from Mission West Community Development Partners in Montana, where she was the Regional Community and Economic Development Director.



**Jim Geering, Fire Chief** – started 11/11/2021

Chief Jim Geering served for 35 years at the Chula Vista Fire Department. He has been active in the local community including as a board member of the Chula Vista Boys and Girls Club, board of advisors for the South Bay Family YMCA, and as a youth league baseball coach.



**David "Andy" Hyett, Police Officer** – started 11/29/2021

Andy comes to us with 26 years of law enforcement service. He joins us from the Cold Spring Police Department in Kentucky where he retired as a Sergeant.

### OPEN RECRUITMENTS

Administrative Specialist, CD; Apprentice Tree Trimmer, L&P; Fire Chief; Firefighter (eligibility list); Administrative Assistant, Fire; Police Records Specialist; Utility Worker I, PW.

### RETIREMENTS

Congratulations to Fire Captain Joe Smith! Captain Smith retired on December 2 after 25 years of dedicated service with Forest Grove Fire and Rescue.

### PROMOTIONS

Rachael Van Loo was promoted to Administrative Specialist in the Aquatics Center on November 1. Congratulations Rachael!

### MILESTONES

Jared Glanz – Utility Worker II – PW, 5 years November 14.  
Bon McBee – Police Officer – FGPD, 5 years November 28.  
Joe Smith – Fire Captain – Fire, 25 years on December 2.  
Mary Van Loo – Library Assistant – Library, 5 years December 8.  
Matt Johnston – Fire Technician – FGPD, 10 years December 12.